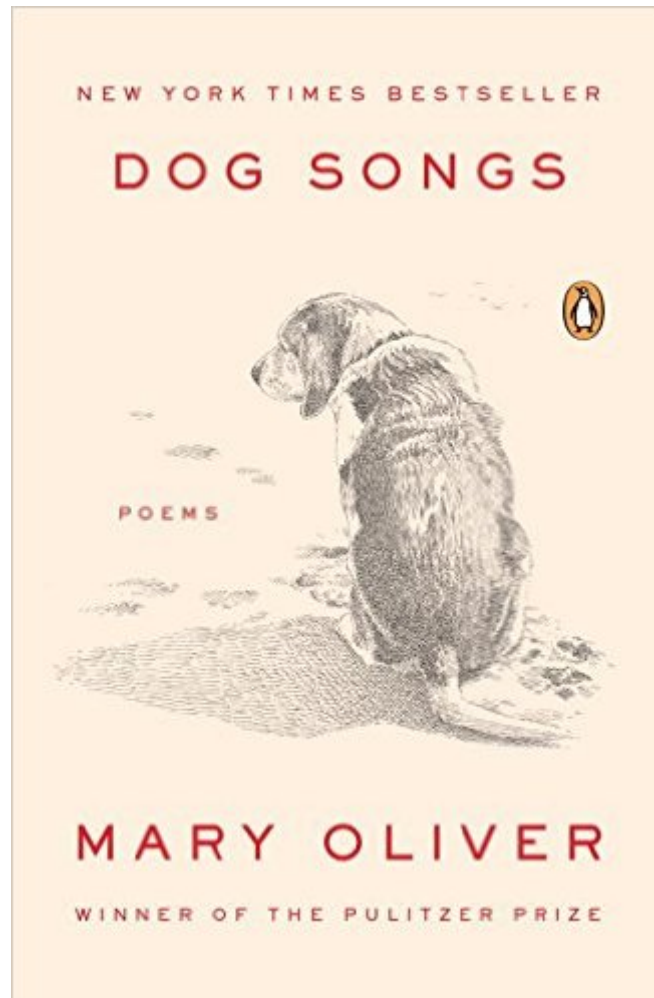


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Dog Songs: Poems



Synopsis

• The popularity of [Dog Songs] feels as inevitable and welcome as a wagging tail upon homecoming. • "The Boston Globe" Mary Oliver's Dog Songs is a celebration of the special bond between human and dog, as understood through the poet's relationships to the canines that have accompanied her daily walks, warmed her home, and inspired her work. Oliver's poems begin in the small everyday moments familiar to all dog lovers, but through her extraordinary vision, these observations become higher meditations on the world and our place in it. Dog Songs includes visits with old friends, like Oliver's beloved Percy, and introduces still others in poems of love and laughter, heartbreak and grief. Throughout, the many dogs of Oliver's life merge as fellow travelers and as guides, uniquely able to open our eyes to the lessons of the moment and the joys of nature and connection.

Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

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Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars • See all reviews (384 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I purchased this volume of poems DOG SONGS after hearing Mary Oliver interviewed on NPR. The collection is small, consisting of about 35 poems, some of which have been published in previous editions of Ms. Oliver's poetry, accompanied by beautiful drawings of what I assume are of the many dogs that have enriched this Pulitzer-prize-winning poet's life over the years. The poems are warm, moving and sometimes sad and cover every aspect of a dog's stay on this earth-- which the poet acknowledges is too short-- from his beginnings ("How It Begins"), to the joy that he brings to those who know him ("Little Dog's Rhapsody in the Night"), to his just being a dog (Percy), to her death ("Her Grave"). Ms. Oliver obviously loves dogs as much as anyone can as every page in this

book bears witness. She takes her dog to the poetry class she teaches, making sure she has that requirement in her contract ("The Poetry Teacher"); she has cancelled trips ("Conversations") because of a beloved dog: I had to go away for a few days so I called the kennel and made an appointment. I guess Bear overheard the conversation. "Love and company," said Bear, "are the adornments that change everything. I know they'll be nice to me, but I'll be sad, sad, sad." And pitifully he wrung his paws. I cancelled the trip. And Ms. Oliver writes again and again of her wish that dogs could run free as she expresses so eloquently in "If You Are Holding This Book": You may not agree, you may not care, but if you are holding this book you should know that of all the sights I love in this world--and there are plenty--very near the top of the list is this one: dogs without leashes.

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